



## **northern myotis**

*Myotis septentrionalis*

Kingdom:           Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates  
Class:               Mammalia  
Order:              Chiroptera  
Family:             Vespertilionidae

### **Features**

The northern myotis (formerly Keen's myotis) is three to 3 1/2 inches long. This bat is light reddish-brown above and buffy gray below. Its wing is attached along the side of the foot and reaches the base of the toes. Its ears are long and extend beyond the nose when flattened.

### **Natural History**

The northern myotis lives in mine tunnels, caves, buildings, hollow trees, storm sewers, and forested areas. In winter it is primarily a cave dweller and hangs singly or with another bat or two. It usually is found toward the back of caves where it is warmer. Some bats may spend the winter behind window blinds and under the loose bark of trees. One young per female is born in late June or July. It is known to live almost 19 years in the wild.

### **Habitats**

bottomland forests

### **Iowa Status**

uncommon; native

### **Iowa Range**

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats, but few records from western Iowa

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.